

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR FIFTY LINES. EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

Chinese cheap labor never devised a more wonderful illustration of itself than in the construction of that popular explosive known as the fire-cracker. How it came that fire-crackers and Fourth of July are inseparably wedded, none can tell. But they are, and the Small Boy of the period insists that they shall be. He observes the day with all its delights. And the principal delight is Noise.

This uproariousness has gradually drawn down the law upon it. There is no good ground for supposing that to burn a house with a rocket-stick, or to start off a conflagration with a pack of fire-crackers or a Catherine-wheel, helps on the liberty of the American republic. It may not even be necessary to get drunk in order to glorify the memory of the Declaration of Independence. And it grows increasingly doubtful whether this holiday does not lend itself more readily to a quiet than to a boisterous observance of its freedom. That a Liberty Day should be a day of liberty appears to be taken for granted. But that it should be the vehicle of plunging one-half of mankind, at least, into misery and setting their ears and teeth on edge, does not really carry much weight of argument with it.

Fling out the flags, then! Let the fine banner of our fathers' love float everywhere—the century plant that has kept its bloom! Let the crack of the cracker and the rush of the rocket proceed as before! But let each citizen see to it that his own pleasure shall not mar his neighbor's peace. Perhaps there is sickness—or it may be, death—within reach of the noise. Perhaps inflammable surroundings may call for precautions in the use of explosives. Perhaps timid women or innocent children may be endangered. Brooklyn gives plenty of liberty but stops the fun before it runs into license. That is a wise arrangement, and these are not things to be forgotten.

But after all the Day is the Day—and it will remain as the one great American Day henceforth and evermore!

THE COMMENCEMENT SEASON.

With the closing weeks of June the American educational world is all alive! Then the colleges and seminaries, the academies and high schools, graduate their classes and give their degrees. The interest reaches to every corner of the land. There is no town too small to lack its representative and there is no university too great to be independent of the country village that helps its constituency. We see this in the rapid formation of alumni associations, in the eagerness with which the academy and high school graduates look forward to the higher education of the college curriculum, and especially we see it in the space surrendered by the crowded newspapers and periodicals to the doings of the commencement weeks.

The United States is the true home of popular education. There is no one too poor to be deprived of the privilege of acquiring knowledge. In the system of scholarships which has been extended through the great colleges, the ambitious and the deserving find their golden opportunity. And when one observes the band of students who have been developed by these agencies, he is at no loss to point out some very distinguished names. This is a fact of no recent date, and one which was commemorated in an illustrated journal not long ago. But it appears to be slowly taking its place among accepted truths in spite of its recognition by scholars.

What we mean is, that America can hold up her head and exhibit the faces of her scholars by the side of any foreign land. Our students are to-day better equipped for their work in all respects than are the students of other countries. And although we are still inferior to the collections, laboratories, and accumulated libraries of the Continent, we are rapidly overcoming this defect. Every new commencement adds to the valuable addresses which are delivered and to the valuable results which are being gathered up.

American scholarship has become a synonym for acuteness, thoroughness, and clearness of insight. Its practical character saves it from German fog and its unconventional surroundings prevent its restriction by English conservatism. Gradually we have changed the attitude of foreign scholars until the degree of an American institution now carries no inconsiderable weight abroad.

This is not confined to our colleges and universities alone. Nor is it merely true of us that we furnish to both sexes those advantages which in Europe are restricted to one. But it is to be remembered that our ordinary high schools afford a very capital outlook upon the great world of thought and science. The American system begins with the child, and then takes care of the pupil until he either becomes a practical business man or ascends to one of the professions or even beyond that—as many now do—into the highest ranks of study. It offers a scope which allows versatility along with accuracy, and it is the public school drill after all which develops in such a man as Prof. Hardy the ability to write a successful poem, to prepare a thorough treatise on quaternions, and then to compose a popular work of fiction.

Thus does each commencement season uplift the general tone of our education. Every class of white-robed or dark-coated graduates is a new impulse to the Republic. And that mind must be very purblind indeed which does not find this fact pressing more powerfully upon public attention, and calling more strongly for public thanksgiving, with each succeeding year.

We are glad to learn that Miss Henrietta Northall and Miss Kittie Davies have completed the arrangements for their proposed school. They have secured the "Old Parsonage"—Mr. Augustus Morris's property—on Broad Street. If winning ways with children and thorough experience be any guarantee for the success of these ladies, they will certainly prosper in their undertaking. The training of the youngest children is of such vast importance that the system of Froebel has been growing in favor with every year. Misses Northall and Davies propose, if we are correct in our information, to make this a prominent feature in their work when they open in the fall.

THE NEWARK MURDER.

A city with a population of nearly 150,000 persons must contain a large number of people who belong to the criminal class.

The enormous expense to this county for the administration of justice is only one of the evidences of this fact. There have been several brutal and shocking murders in Essex County within the past five years, but that of last Saturday is more brutal and shocking than any other which we recollect.

A vagabond of a husband who had been frequently complained of by his wife, because of his neglect of his family and his violent and abusive conduct to them, was released from the jail on the promise to do better in future. He commenced his reformation by an assault upon his wife and her mother. For this attack he succeeded in escaping arrest, and on Saturday afternoon returned to the house where his wife was living and shot her down in cold blood. A brutal and passionate man had in one instant become the most loathsome of murderers, and John Chisholm had quickly taken the final step in his career of crime. He was promptly arrested, and his trial and conviction must speedily follow.

Fortunately there is no question as to the fact of his having committed the murder, so that the only inquiry will be how far the threadbare defense of insanity can be made to serve the purpose of furnishing hope for the hopeless.

The doctrine of insanity, as a defense for a man charged with a crime, stands on a narrow foundation in New Jersey. Yet that foundation is, we believe, broad enough to give a sure protection to the hapless one who, deprived of reason and responsibility, and incapable of malice, takes the life of another with no thought of crime. But that foundation is entirely too narrow to furnish a foothold for a lawless wretch who finally reaches murder as the end of a life of continued wrong-doing.

If the story as given in the newspapers is correct, the young wife who now lies buried in our Bloomfield cemetery is not entirely without fault in this melancholy tragedy. It is universally reported, and is nowhere denied, that she married this man when but seventeen years of age, in spite of the most determined opposition of her parents.

Such marriages are rarely happy ones, and in the nature of the case cannot be expected to result favorably where the opposition of parents is based, not upon caprice or prejudice, but upon a knowledge of the worthless character of the man.

The profound and sincere interest which parents, in all grades of respectable society, take in the welfare of their children, and especially of their daughters, is, in too many instances, underestimated and lightly regarded by these children, who are quick to consider opposition unreasonable and restraint irksome.

The contract of marriage, the most serious of all civil contracts, is entered into by minors in defiance of the advice and judgment of their friends, upon the mistaken notion that here, at least, their own choice is infallible. And yet these same minor children are forbidden by law to make any other form of contract, which

cannot be shown to be absolutely essential to their welfare.

If the fate of this thoughtless girl shall make other girls more thoughtful, and the punishment of this heartless wretch shall deter other men from deeds of blood, the Chisholm murder may serve to teach a lesson which cannot be too quickly learned.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

The seventieth anniversary of Mr. Beecher's birth was celebrated in Brooklyn on Monday evening with great enthusiasm by a large concourse of his friends, who filled the Academy of Music and paid tribute to this man, who had spent one-half of his long life as the pastor of their most famous church.

The devotion shown by his people to Mr. Beecher has always been remarkable, and this last ovation surpassed all others. How any man could sit by and hear himself lauded to the heavens in language such as that used by most of the speakers, without doubting either their sincerity or his own sense of hearing, surpasses comprehension, but like all excessive praise its extravagance breaks its force. We have no desire to belittle Mr. Beecher. We recognize his great talents and his conspicuous services to Church and State, and also to Brooklyn, in former years; yet we could not fail to observe that not one of these men, who vied with each other in giving utterance to their admiration for their friend, found even a single event of his life within the past ten years to which allusion could safely be made.

The praise was all for the man as he was in former years, when his voice rang out for freedom and justice and religion with no uncertain sound, and when his character had never been assailed; when example could be safely commended to young men about to enter upon life with its unknown trials.

That Mr. Beecher whom we all revered and admired never attained the age of threescore and ten; he departed this life ten years ago, and to many is but a memory.

It is painful to recall these last ten years, to be forced to admit that the preacher has publicly abandoned the religion which he taught so well; to feel that he no longer commands the unquestioned respect of thoughtful men; that his life has not rounded to maturity; and that his reputation could only have been preserved untarnished by his premature death—but in the face of the praise so unstintingly lavished, these facts cannot be easily forgotten.

OUR columns contain a short history of the affairs of the Library Hall Association, and inform us that the library building is in danger of passing from the control of its present owners.

This matter should receive careful attention, and in our editorial columns we shall next week present our views, together with some plan by which it is hoped the property may be preserved for public use.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

THE excursion under the auspices of the Order of Chosen Friends to Greenwood Lake on next Friday July 6th, will afford a delightful ride of 36 miles through pleasant valleys, past wayside villages, and on into the wild scenery of the mountains until the lake is reached, nearly one thousand feet above the sea. There the steamer Excursionists to Warwick Woodlands. A band of music will accompany the excursion. The fare for the round trip is seventy-five cents, which will include the sail on the lake. The train will leave Bloomfield at 8:35 A. M. Returning leave the Woodlands at 4:30 P. M., affording five hours at the lake and arriving home before sundown. See the advertisement for full particulars.

THE Acme Association will make their second annual excursion to Long Branch and Ocean Grove on Wednesday, July 4th, by the Central Railroad of N. J. The train will leave Broad Street station at 9 A. M.

MANY Bloomfielders have visited Ocean Grove in past years with the Methodist Union Excursion. They go this year by Penn. R. R. from Centre Street, at 8 o'clock A. M., July 19th. See advertisement.

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